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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DPC 223

ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS AND RADIO NEWS BRIEFING, WEDNESDAY,  
October 24, 1962, 12:18 p.m.

MR. WHITE: Gentlemen, to call to the attention of those who came over later, we put out this morning a release on the United States and Japan Shellfish Sanitation Agreement. This was signed at eleven-thirty, on behalf of the United States by Ambassador Harriman, and Surgeon General George Luther Terry; on behalf of Japan by the Ambassador.

Mr. William C. Doherty will be sworn in--was sworn in at noon as US Ambassador to Jamaica. We will have the usual biographic follow-up release after lunch.

Senator Wayne Morse came into the Department at nine this morning at the request of the Secretary, to be informed on the latest developments in the Cuban situation. As you all know, Senator Morse is Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Latin American Affairs. The officers who briefed Senator Morse include Assistant Secretary Edwin Martin, Ambassador deLesseps Morrison, United States Representative to the OAS, and Deputy Director Thomas Hughes of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

The Office of Congressman Armistead Seldon, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs, has been contacted as well.

Q I am not clear, did the Secretary see Senator Morse too?

MR. WHITE: I am not positive of that, Jim. I just don't know.

Q Linc, did the--the office of the Congressman has been notified that the State Department would like to give the Congressman a briefing?

A No, they have been given a fill-in. The Congressman was out of town.

Q He was called in as Chairman of the--

A Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee.

Q Were any other Senators called in or plan to be called in?

A Well, as you know, the President saw a group of Congressional leaders at the White House, and I would assume that we are briefing as many Members of Congress as we can lay hands on... .

Q Linc, Tass has reported out of Moscow that the Soviets have turned down this note that we sent to them and refused to accept it. Do we have anything to

say about this?

A No, Ambassador Kohler was given a copy of the Soviet statement carried by Tass yesterday. But--

Q Linc, this refers, I believe, to a copy of the President's Proclamation last night.

A Oh, that I know nothing about.

Q Linc, can you comment in my way on reports hinting that the US would be willing to negotiate bases in Cuba with bases in Western Europe?

A Yes. My comment would be to point out to you that Ambassador Stevenson in the Security Council meeting last night made quite clear that there is no relation between the situation in Cuba and the situation elsewhere in the world; therefore, there is no substance to such speculation.

Q A very minor matter on which I have been queried: Could you tell us how the London Embassy happened to put out these pictures last night?

A I don't know the details of that. As I gather it--this is from reading ticker copy, which is available to all of you--the man in London simply misunderstood and thought he was at liberty to release these.

Q Misunderstood what, Linc, the embargo?

A His instructions.

Q Could I follow this up: Had there been any plan under way to release this anyway, or did this force our hand so that we then released them from here?

A Mike, I am not sufficiently up on that, who shot John on this one.

Q Excuse me, at Pierre Salinger's briefing at noon today he said that any contacts between Russia and the United States concerning this blockade would be handled by Secretary Sylvester, of Defense. Does this mean that this Department will not in addition give us some fill-ins on what is happening, what your actions are?

A I just don't know just what Pierre said, but I am sure he didn't mean to give that impression.

Q There is no exclusion on briefings here, on contacts?

A Nope.

Q Linc, Pierre was talking about military contacts.

A Yes, I am sure he must have been talking about military contacts, yes.

Q Have there been any additional notes sent to the Soviet Union other than the ones we know about,

Linc?

A None that I am aware of.

Q Any notes received?

A Nothing other than what I have said about the Kohler situation.

Q Anything more on these commercial shipping guidelines and when they might be out?

A Yes. I mean, there is nothing to what I said yesterday. I don't know whether you were here yesterday. I said that the agencies concerned are reviewing these regulations in the light of the quarantine Proclamation, now. Obviously they have got to be changed to conform to that.

Q Linc, in abstaining yesterday, the Uruguayans said that they still hadn't been in touch with their government, if and when they were in touch, they might vote "yes." Do you know whether there has been any development in that area?

A I do not. I think--were you there? If you were, please forgive me. My understanding was he said he had not yet received instructions.

Q That is right.

A Whether he has yet or not, I do not know.

Q Linc, another minor thing: Rusk is

lunching today with the Portuguese Foreign Minister.

Do you expect that the bases question, the bases in the Azores--

A Well, this has been set up some time. You will recall that the Secretary saw the Portuguese Foreign Minister in New York. This is a follow-up to those discussions. And I suppose it's open-ended as to topics. Certainly matters of mutual interest and concern will be discussed, and I would assume that that would certainly cover the Azores and the Cuban situation.

Q Linc, will the Secretary be having a press conference this week?

A I have not heard yet, Elie.

Q Linc, have any arrangements been made with any Latin American countries for active cooperation in these blockade moves?

A Yes. I don't think I am at liberty to go into those matters.

Q Costa Rica and Argentina, I think--those two have announced their willingness to.

A Yes. My problem here is I don't know how much of this is in the public domain and how much is still in a restricted area.

Q Are these fixed arrangements, Linc, or is this just talk about--

A I am sorry. Until I have more information on it, you will forgive me, I am just not at liberty to go into it at this stage.

Q Linc, could we turn back to your reply to Scali's question about turning down the note which--the President's Proclamation on the boycott, Moscow refused to accept that? Would you give us your reply again on that, please?

A I just am not informed on this, John.

Q This happened about eleven o'clock, Linc.

A I have nothing on it.

Q Thank you very much, Linc.

[Whereupon at 12:29 the meeting was concluded.]